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ABSTRACT

The annotated directory describes in detail both on-line and print databases in the area of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities. For each database, the directory provides the name, address, and telephone number of the sponsoring organization; disability areas served; number of hardware and software products; types of information provided by the database; cost for using the database; procedures for accessing the database; and a paragraph-length description. Databases described in the directory include: ABLEDATA, Accent on Information, Adaptive Device Locator System, Apple Computer Special Education and Rehabilitation SOLUTIONS, Apple Computer Resources in Special Education and Rehabilitation, Closing the Gap Resource Directory, CompuHelp, CTG (Closing the Gap) Solutions, Developmental Disabilities Technology Library, Hyper-ABLEDATA, IBM National Support Center for Persons with Disabilities, National Technology Database, Sensory Technology Information Service, and The Trace ResourceBook (JDD)

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Directory of Assistive Technology Data Sources

**A Product of the Center for Special Education
Technology**

**Operated by
The Council for Exceptional Children**



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**Assistive
Technology:
A
Thematic
Focus
of the
Center**

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The Council for Exceptional Children
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Center for
Special Education
Technology



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Preface

The Center for Special Education Technology at The Council for Exceptional Children is a national information center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The Center's broad goals are to influence the quality, availability, and use of technology in special education through information. To that end the Center provides a range of information services and activities for educators, developers, and publishers.

A major component of the Center's service is its in-depth focus on identified themes in the special education technology field. Theme activities address expressed information gaps by identifying existing knowledge and making sure that knowledge gets translated and disseminated to interested audiences.

The Center's first theme for 1989-1990 is assistive technology. This theme was chosen because of the increased interest within the special education community which is expected to continue as a result of the new federal legislation calling for technology-related services for individuals with disabilities. The Center's efforts focus on three aspects of assistive technology: products, service delivery, and integration of assistive technology within the education/learning environment.

In response to expressed information needs, the Center has compiled this annotated directory of existing databases, both on-line and print, to assist you in identifying available products. This directory contains a level of detail not currently found in other directories and frequently not described in general database descriptions from the database source. The purpose for attending to this level of detail is to assist you in locating the data source that best meets your information needs, making your search for assistive technology product information more efficient and effective.

This annotated directory is one assistive technology information product that has been developed by the Center. Other products developed under this theme that are currently available are:

- Assistive Technology Resource Directory
- The Marketplace: Special Edition: P.L. 100-407
- Tools for a Lifetime

Future products will include:

- Assistive Technology Curriculum Outline
- Assistive Technology: The Role of the Team
- Technology User in the Classroom Series

These products are available free of charge by contacting the Center.

Name of Database: ABLEDATA

Name of Organization: Adaptive Equipment Center

Address: Newington Children's Hospital
181 East Cedar Street
Newington, CT 06111

Telephone: 800-344-5405 or 203-667-5405

Disability Areas Served: All

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 16,700

Utility/tool software: 500

Other database entries: Includes do-it-yourself devices

Information provided by the database:

Generic product name

Product brand name

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Availability

Cost (dated)

Description (includes product specifications when available)

Keywords (indexed in a thesaurus)

Comments

Cost for using the database: Up to 8 pages are free; 8-15 pages are \$10.00; 16-30 pages are \$15.00, and \$5.00 additional for every additional increment of 15 pages.

How the database is accessed: Custom searches are conducted by the Center's information specialists. Interested persons can call, write, or visit the Center in person. The database can also be accessed through BRS Information Technologies, a subscription on-line service. (Contact BRS-800-345-4277.)

Description:

ABLEDATA is the largest information source in the nation on disability-related products. *ABLEDATA* is a continually updated product database with more than 15,000 commercially available products from over 1,900 manufacturers. Detailed information is included on products for use in all aspects of independent living, including personal care, transportation, communication, and recreation. *ABLEDATA* services include: *Custom Database Searches*: Up to 8 pages of information are provided free of charge, with nominal charges for more extensive searches; *ABLEDATA Thesaurus*: Includes the lists of categories and product names, \$25; *Fact Sheets*: Detailed information on selected products, single copies provided free of charge.

ABLEDATA is also available in a floppy disk format. See the *Hyper-ABLEDATA* entry in this directory for more information.

Name of Database:	Accent on Information
Address:	P.O. Box 700 Bloomington, IL 61702
Telephone:	309-378-2961

Disability Areas Served: Physical disabilities

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 4,000

Utility/tool software: None

Other database entries: 2,500 articles, books, services

Information provided by the database:

Product brand name

Brief description or summary

Index terms

Manufacturer's mailing address

Publication data

Cost for using the database: \$12.00 for up to 50 of the most recent references.

How the database is accessed: Information requests are placed over the telephone or by mail. A staff member conducts a computer search and mails the results to the requester.

Description:

Accent on Information maintains a computerized database of information consisting mostly of aids and assistive devices and how-to information for all types of disabilities. Access to this retrieval system is via a brief questionnaire, which asks questions regarding the specifics of the disability and the type of technology required. A printed listing of appropriate technology is provided in response to the questionnaire. Fees are \$12 for a basic search (includes up to 50 references); additional references are billed at \$.08 each. Fees can be waived if the requester is unable to pay.

Name of Database: Adaptive Device Locator System

Name of Organization: Academic Software, Inc.

Address: 331 West Second Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Telephone: 606-233-2332

Disability Areas Served: All

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 600+

Utility/tool software: 50-100

Other database entries:

Information provided by the database:

Device classifications

Device descriptions

Pictures

Source information

Product information

Mailing label and form letter

Cost for using the database: \$150.00 to purchase the (Apple II compatible) software and database (\$235.00 for IBM compatible); \$60.00 for semi-annual database update subscription service (annual fee).

How the database is accessed: The Locator is a microcomputer-based product (Apple IIe, IIc, IIgs or IBM compatible) and the purchaser performs individual searches.

Description:

The Adaptive Device Locator System (ADLS) employs a unique, functional, goal-oriented approach to aid handicapped or elderly persons and professionals who assist them to rapidly identify adaptive and assistive devices with potential to help overcome various limitations. ADLS provides the user with short device descriptions, pictures, and lists of sources for products and product information. Mailing labels and form letters to vendors can be generated automatically. The Locator is an excellent tool for school personnel who prepare IEPs and perform physical disability assessments; counselors who work with the elderly in senior citizens' centers; and professionals and volunteers who provide or train others to provide information about the use of adaptive and assistive technologies for basic living, communication, mobility, and environmental improvement. The Locator databases are continuously updated and expanded as new types of adaptive and assistive aids appear on the market and new manufacturing and/or distributing firms enter the field.

Name of Database: Apple Computer, Inc. Special Education and Rehabilitation SOLUTIONS

Name of Organization: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation

Address: Apple Computer, Inc.
20525 Mariani Avenue
MS 43-S
Cupertino, CA 95014

Telephone: 408-974-7910 or 408-974-7911 (TDD)

Disability Areas Served: All

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 500

Utility/tool software: 92

Other database entries: Instructional software, assessment software, administration/management software, information resources

Information provided by the database:

Product brand name

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Brief product description

Cost for using the database: Free.

How the database is accessed: (1) through AppleLink, an Apple administered network, provided free on the Explorer CD-ROM disk that comes with each Apple CD-ROM player, (2) through SpecialNet, (3) through a HyperCard-based database. All are custom searchable. Documentation and help screens are provided.

Description:

Apple Computer Inc. Special Education and Rehabilitation SOLUTIONS is an on-line database of resources available to disabled users of Apple computers. Maintained by Apple's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation, it currently contains over 1,000 entries describing adaptive devices, specialized software, support organizations, and publications. New entries are added regularly. The entire SOLUTIONS database is on AppleLink, Apple's own international telecommunications network. Because AppleLink is available at every authorized Apple dealership, anyone can have access to information. SOLUTIONS is also available via SpecialNet.

SOLUTIONS is also available in a print format. See the Apple Computer Resources in Special Education and Rehabilitation entry in this directory for more information.

Name of Database: Apple Computer Resources in Special Education and Rehabilitation, 1990 edition (Catalog #G6590)

Name of Organization: DLM Teaching Resources, Inc.

Address: One DLM Park
Allen, TX 75002

Telephone: 800-527-4747 or 800-442-4711 (In Texas)

Disability Areas Served: All

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware:

Utility/tool software:

Other database entries: Instructional software, services, books

Information provided by the database:

Product brand name

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Product description

Product classification

Cost for using the database: \$19.95 for the book.

How the database is accessed: This database is in a print format.

Description:

This print resource contains information that can be easily accessed to answer questions about hardware add-ons, specialized software, organizations, and publications that support disabled computer users. The book contains over 400 pages of information describing more than 1000 hardware and software products, publications, and organizations all designed to help the disabled child and adult take advantage of the power of computing. Application areas covered are education, vocation, recreation, and activities of daily living.

The Apple Computer Resources in Special Education and Rehabilitation is also available in a nonprint format. See the Apple Computer, Inc. Special Education and Rehabilitation SOLUTIONS entry in this directory for more information.

Name of Database: Closing the Gap Resource Directory

Name of Organization: Closing The Gap, Inc.

Address: P.O. Box 68
Henderson, MN 56044

Telephone: 612-248-3294

Disability Areas Served: All

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 283

Utility/tool software:

Other database entries: Instructional software, organizations, producers

Information provided by the database:

Disability

Academic skill

Skill level

Device type

Computer brand

Peripheral requirements

Special skill

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Cost

Description

Keywords (dictionary of terms provided)

Product brand name

Cost for using the database: Annual subscription to the newspaper is \$26.00. Single issues of the Resource Directory are \$12.95 plus \$2.00 shipping.

How the database is accessed: The Resource Directory is a print medium. Products are listed in an easy-to-use matrix.

Description:

The *Closing the Gap Resource Directory* presents technology information that can begin the process of providing persons with disabilities access to the microcomputer and related technology. Individuals can use the directory as a roadmap for development and implementation of this technology. The directory is organized into seven sections: hardware matrix, hardware descriptions, software matrix, software descriptions, hardware and software producers, organizations matrix, and glossary of terms.

Name of Database: CompuHelp

Name of Organization: National Association of Blind & Visually Impaired
Computer Users, Inc.

Address: P.O. Box 1352
Roseville, CA 95661-1352

Telephone: 916-783-0364 (voice) or
916-786-3923 (bulletin board)

Disability Areas Served: Blind, visually impaired

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 250

Utility/tool software: 300

Other database entries: Resources, literature, public domain software, job listings, bulletin board, electronic mail

Information provided by the database:

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Product descriptions

Cost for using the database: None. A \$10.00 donation is appreciated.

How the database is accessed: The database operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 300 and 1200 baud. Help screens are available to assist the search process. A computer floppy disk version is also available through the International Blind Users Group.

Description:

CompuHelp is a compilation of information that will assist the blind or visually impaired person in utilizing the enormous potential of computers. It provides a means for the ongoing exchange of information between manufacturers, self-help groups, the blind and visually handicapped community, and other interested people and organizations. It is a menu-driven database-bulletin board service. A partial list of its contents includes information on hardware and software. It includes public domain software publications in Braille or tape, self-help groups, blind computer user groups, etc.

Name of Database: CTG Solutions

Name of Organization: Closing The Gap, Inc.

Address: P.O. Box 68
Henderson, MN 56044

Telephone: 612-248-3294

Disability Areas Served: All

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 283

Utility/tool software:

Other database entries: Instructional software, organizations, applications, producers

Information provided by the database:

Disability

Academic skill

Skill level

Device type

Computer brand

Peripheral requirements

Special skill

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Cost

Description

Keywords (dictionary of terms provided)

Product brand name

Cost for using the database: Annual license fee is \$975.00, including quarterly updates.

How the database is accessed: The database is Macintosh-based. Searches are individually conducted by the subscriber. Documentation for conducting searches is provided.

Description:

CTG Solutions is a relational database containing information about microcomputer technology and persons with special needs. The database also allows for local customization so that local information relating to student/client activities, administrative considerations, product acquisition, inventory, and training activities can all be linked to the existing product information. It contains information in five major areas: producers of materials; hardware devices; organizations; and applications. This database not only provides up-to-date information on products, but more importantly, how to use those products. It is a tool for special education and rehabilitation professionals that allows them to concentrate on delivering service, not researching applications.

Name of Database: Developmental Disabilities Technology Library (DDTL)
Name of Organization: Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States
Address: 2501 Avenue J
Arlington, TX 76006
Telephone: 817-649-2857

Disability Areas Served: All

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 3140

Utility/tool software: 200

Other database entries: Authorities, publications, resources

Information provided by the database:

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Subject areas (client needs/characteristics, service/therapy, technology/assistive device — descriptor lists provided)

Cost for using the database: Free with the exception of standard telephone charges.

How the database is accessed: Computer modem through the OPUS Network and The DD Connection's electronic mail and bulletin board system.

Description:

The *Developmental Disabilities Technology Library (DDTL)* is a computerized database of information on the application of advanced technology and assistive devices with children and adults who are disabled. The DDTL contains information about technology and assistive devices for persons with disabilities in the following four categories: (1) publications, e.g., books, journal articles, and magazine articles; (2) authorities on the use of assistive devices and actual users of devices; (3) resource agencies; and (4) vendors of assistive devices. Searches are conducted by title, author(s), publication date, or descriptor code, or various combinations thereof. The database is available through the Developmental Disabilities Connection (DD Connection), an OPUS electronic network and bulletin board. The DD Connection allows any user to phone the ARC's computer without any fees assessed (except for long-distance telephone call charges) to share information with other users on the DD Connection, and to get information on assistive technology from the DDTL. Any person with a modem can call the system.

Name of Database: Hyper-ABLEDATA

Name of Organization: Trace R&D Center

Address: Waisman Center
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1500 Highland Avenue
Madison, WI 53705-2280

Telephone: 608-262-6966

Disability Areas Served: All

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 16,700

Utility/tool software: 500

Other database entries: Includes do-it-yourself devices

Information provided by the database:

Generic product name

Product brand name

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Availability

Cost (dated)

Description (includes product specifications when available)

Keywords (indexed in a thesaurus)

Comments

Cost for using the database: \$50.00 for the CD-ROM Macintosh-based database.

How the database is accessed: The purchaser conducts individual searches using the available documentation and help screens.

Description:

Hyper-ABLEDATA is a microcomputer-based version of the ABLEDATA assistive technology database maintained at Newington Children's Hospital in Connecticut. The database is national in scope and covers the full range of assistive technology products. Over 17,000 products are currently listed. The program presents information in an easy-to-use form for those with little or no experience in database searching and is available on disk, tape, or CD-ROM. Disk and tape versions must be loaded on hard disk for use (size is about 26 megabytes). Price covers the most recent version plus a 6-month update, and varies depending on the media ordered.

Hyper-ABLEDATA is also available in an on-line database format. See the ABLEDATA entry in this directory for more information.

Name of Database: IBM National Support Center for Persons with Disabilities
Address: P.O. Box 2150
Atlanta, GA 30055
Telephone: 800-426-2133 or 800-284-9482 (TDD)

Disability Areas Served: All

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 500

Utility/tool software: 200

Other database entries: Instructional software, 300; resource organizations, 800

Information provided by the database:

Product brand name

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Product description

Device category

Cost for using the database: Free.

How the database is accessed: Contact the Center by phone, TDD, or in writing.

Description:

The *IBM National Support Center for Persons with Disabilities* was created to help health care leaders, agency directors, policy makers, employers, educators, public officials, and individuals learn how technology can improve the quality of life for the disabled person in the school, home, and workplace. The Center responds to requests for information on how computers can help people with vision, hearing, speech, learning, and mobility problems. While the Center is unable to diagnose or prescribe an assistive device or software, information is provided on what is available and where one can go for more details. Inquiries are invited on assistive devices, software, and services for disabled persons. The Center has created six publications with information from the database. A general publication contains an overview of computer-related technology and IBM support available to persons with impairments in hearing, learning, mobility, speech, or language and vision. The other five publications present information about specific technology (products, their description and manufacturer) and services that are available to aid persons with these disabilities.

Name of Database: National Technology Database

Name of Organization: American Foundation for the Blind

Address: National Technology Center
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Telephone: 212-620-2080 or 800-AFB-LIND

Disability Areas Served: Blind, visually impaired

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 500

Utility/tool software:

Other database entries: Organizations, training, funding, users of assistive devices, product evaluations

Information provided by the database:

Local distributors

Cost

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Cost for using the database: Free.

How the database is accessed: Requesters should call the Foundation using the toll-free number. Staff members conduct the search and mail the requester a list of vendors that produce products in the requested categories.

Description:

The *American Foundation for the Blind* houses the National Technology Center, which serves as a resource center for blind and visually impaired people, professionals in the blindness field, employers, researchers, and companies developing and manufacturing special aids and devices. The Center's database contains information about products ranging from canes and watches to sophisticated computers with braille, large print, and synthetic speech output. The database consists of four databases linked together. These databases are products, organizations/funding/training, evaluations, and user networks.

The product database consists of information on commercially available products, including price, manufacturer, and local distributors. The product information is organized according to product type (i.e., watches, printers, hardware, software). The organizations/training/funding database has information on various organizations, training centers, and organizations that provide funding. The evaluations database has information on the results of each evaluation study. The features and functions of each evaluated product and overall rating is given. The user database consists of information on over 900 users of assistive devices. For each user, a file includes information on address, job, visual status of the user, devices used, and task level (i.e., beginner, advanced, or in-training). This information is made public with the user's permission.

Name of Database: Sensory Technology Information Service

Name of Organization: National Clearinghouse on Technology and Aging

Address: University Center on Aging
University of Massachusetts Medical Center
55 Lake Avenue N
Worcester, MA 01655

Telephone: 800-433-2306

Disability Areas Served: Vision, hearing

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware:

Utility/tool software:

Other database entries: Special services, publications, organizations

Information provided by the database:

Generic name

Product brand name

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Availability status

Cost (dated)

Product description

Keywords

Comments

Application information

Date entry was updated

Cost for using the database: Free to individuals with disabilities and members of the Clearinghouse. Organizations, vendors, and non-disabled individuals are charged an hourly rate.

How the database is accessed: The requester must contact the Clearinghouse by phone, letter, or TDD. Search results are available in standard print, voice via the phone, via TDD, and on cassette.

Description:

Sensory Technology Information Service is designed to answer questions about what, which, and how available devices and services can lessen the disability of a major sensory loss; questions about what products exist AND are available, what various devices can and cannot do, how much they cost, and how people have used them. They also provide information about other items of interest: special newsletters, organizations, books, and other special publications. While an in-house database is at the core of their operation, it is only one of the resources used to provide the best answer possible. Other resources include consultants (including disabled consumers), literature, vendor contacts, and other databases.

Name of Database: The Trace ResourceBook

Name of Organization: Trace R&D Center

Address: Waisman Center
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1500 Highland Avenue
Madison, WI 53705-2280

Telephone: 608-262-6966

Disability Areas Served: All

Number of Products:

Assistive devices/hardware: 600

Utility/tool software: 600

Other: Resources, organizations, publications

Information provided by the database:

Product brand name

Manufacturer's mailing address and phone number

Computer compatibility

Manual form

Cost

Product description

Product categories (index of categories provided)

Cost for using the database: \$49.00 for the book.

How the database is accessed: Book - print format.

Description:

The *Trace ResourceBook* lists products useful for communication, control, and computer access for disabled people. It includes all products marketed in the U.S. and Canada, along with other important resource information for consumers and professionals interested in assistive technology. Appendixes guide users to sources of further information on these types of products. Each chapter contains all the products with the same primary function arranged alphabetically. Special color-coded cross reference indexes help users search for available products to meet specific needs. They allow the user to find products by function, input feature, output feature, computer, model, and manufacturer.